Claims for damages of perishable items

1525. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money the Indian Railways have been paying to the private parties specially traders of perishable items as claims for damages per year during the last 3 years;

(b) what is the reason for paying such huge amount; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to verify the number of true claims and what steps have been taken to check this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The amount of compensation paid for loss of and damage to booked consignments are not maintained separately for private parties and other parties. However, the total amount of compensation paid to all parties on perishable items during the last 3 years has been as under:—

Year	Amount in lakhs of rupees
1983-84	309·05
1984-85	320·87
1985-86	391·67

(b) Claims arise due to theft, pilferage, damage, delay in transit, over-carriage, misdespatch etc.

(c) Claims are paid after proper verification of loss in accordance with provision of Indian Railways Act. Claims which are not tenable are repudiated. Claims prevention measures are being regularly taken to minimise incidents of loss, damage, etc.

Improved Passenger amenities at Railway Stations

1526. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposals under Government's consideration to provide improved passenger amenities at various stations including Chandrapur railway station in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration to provide more passenger amenities at Chandrapur Railway Station in Maharashtra. In absence of the names of other stations, it is not possible to provide similar information.

(b) Does not arise.

Linking of Meghalaya to Guwahati Byrnihat railway head

1527. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Meghalaya is likely to be connected with a railway head from Guwahati to Byrnihat;

(b) whether a new railway line is proposed to be constructed to divert the existing one from Guwahati to Upper Assam; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is no proposal to construct the railway line from Guwahati to Burnihat as the Meghalaya Government have not agreed to locate the terminal at Byrnihat.

(b) and (c) A survey for Broad Gauge railway line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh connecting Nagaon, Jorhat and Sibsagar has been conducted. The length of the proposed line alongwith extension